

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 6, 8 and 9 are pending in this application and have been allowed. By the present Amendment, rejected claims 11 through 13 have been cancelled. In addition, claims 17 through 20, which stand withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b) as directed to a non-elected invention, have also been cancelled. Accordingly, there is no remaining issue in this application. However, for completeness, Applicants will address the imposed rejection.

Claims 11 through 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Besser et al.

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by canceling claims 11 through 13 and 15. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is solicited.

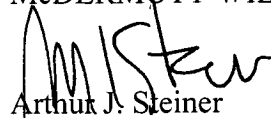
As previously pointed out, the only pending claims, claims i.e., claims 1 through 6, 8 and 9, have been allowed. Accordingly, this application is in clear condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Application No.: 10/728,774

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Arthur J. Steiner

Registration No. 26,106

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 AJS:ntb/lrd
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: January 27, 2006

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as our correspondence address.**